

States not only from English influence but all European influence, and marked out the sphere of influence of the United States; after the civil war President Grant marched a large army of veterans to Mexican border to see that France evacuated Mexico; President Cleveland, in the Venezuela affair, brought England to bay, in spite of her boasted power, by his proclamation reaffirming the Monroe doctrine and compelling Europe to consider it a principle of international law when dealing with America; and last, but not least, the war with Spain asserted the right of the United States to mediation in regulating the affairs of the Western Hemisphere, and now, practically the Pacific Ocean. With such a successful record of declarations of emancipation from all outside influences it is rather humiliating to be accused of being dominated by English influence, door policy. If this be so it behooves the United States to hold England to her pretensions in this respect, because it is of vital importance that the integrity of China be maintained and the "open door" policy be practised. In the event of England's changing her policy toward China it might be expedient, even necessary, for the United States to join Russia to stop England from land grabbing; but it would be equally dangerous to our interests to have China Russianized—to support her in a Monroe doctrine for Asia. The United States is in a position to hold the balance of power in world politics. England must have her friendship and Russia cannot afford to have her enmity. Therefore, it is best not to be too sentimental over the cousinly *entente* of the English-speaking people.

It seems impossible for the Russian mind to

Autocracy vs. Democracy

grasp the reasons why there can never be intimate relations between Russia and the United States. Autocracy is abhorrent to Democracy. Therefore, England, the most democratic people in the world next to the United States, must be encouraged in her energetic attempt to curb Russian aggression. The Czar's desire for disarmament and peace cannot be very sincere when he is energetically building the greatest engine of warfare in the history of the world, namely, the trans-Siberian railway. Located as it is and owned and operated by an autocratic government, it becomes a menace to nearly all the powers by facilitating the rapid transportation of the largest army in the world half way around the globe. It menaces England in India and China, France in Tonquin, German interests in China and the Pacific ocean and the United States in Alaska and the Philippines. Japan could be crushed. Instead of disarming it will be necessary for all the powers to maintain larger armaments in the far East.

The Samoan commissioners are to be congratulated upon their success in arranging the

The Samoa Commission

Samoan difficulties to the satisfaction of the natives. It is reported that the 450 chiefs have shaken hands, rubbed noses and sworn allegiance to the form of government proposed by the Commissioners. The assembling of chiefs must have been an imposing spectacle as any one can easily imagine who is familiar with the medieval customs of the Polynesians upon such state occasions.

How long the tripartite government proposed will be operated without friction cannot be foretold; but it must be the sincere desire of all thoughtful Germans, Englishmen and Americans that so small a matter as the governing of Samoa will not again disturb diplomatic relations. Now that the natives have decided to be at peace, of their own volition, it will not be difficult to suppress any insurrection against the new government. Germany, which was in the right

throughout the Samoan affair, is to be commended for her magnanimity in making every concession in the interest of peace. Judge Chambers, who undoubtedly would have been a bone of contention, has evidently been let down easy. When passing through here on the Moana the other day he confessed that private affairs would probably prevent his return to Samoa. This is tantamount to a confession that he was dismissed by the Commission.

The condition in South Africa is not at all satisfactory, and the latest advices indicate

War between England and the Boer Republic

war between England and President Kruger. England has ordered her South African army to be reinforced to 40,000 troops, to be prepared for any contingency. Trouble is certainly brewing.

President Kruger is only acting within his rights under the treaty with England which guaranteed the republic independence. To be sure, under this treaty England retained, in a measure, a protectorate over the Boer republic, but by the treaty President Kruger was left free in regard to all matters of internal government. It developed soon afterward that very rich mines were discovered in the Boer territory, and out of the leases and assessments upon these that were on government land the republic has made a very handsome income. Nearly all of these mines were developed by Englishmen and at this late day the English are claiming to be unjustly taxed by President Kruger's government. Before having obtained wealth these same mine-owners were quite willing to accept the terms of the republic for their leases. Now, however, they are making such agitation as will bring the English into the matter with the object of coercing the Boer government into making terms with the miners. There is no question but that Cecil Rhodes is at the bottom of the whole affair and will be the means of forcing his country into an unjust and wanton war to gratify his selfish ambition.

Famine in Russia.

In Russia there is a famine in the northwestern provinces at present, of which Mr. Stead, who has been spending June at The Hague and who visited Russia in May, writes as follows: "The northeastern provinces of Russia are smitten with a great dearth, which, as it has left 3,000,000 people destitute, may rightly be regarded a famine. The Empress Dowager and the Red Cross Society are doing a noble work. The Emperor has subscribed enormous sums from his own purse, but it is to be feared that, despite all voluntary efforts, the mortality will be very great. No rain fell last year in a region as large as France, with the result that every green thing withered up, and the unfortunate natives, many of whom are Tartars, and belonging to various Finnish tribes, have been eking out a miserable existence by eating weeds, bark, and clay. Hence an outbreak of scurvy in a most malignant form, the description of which recalls some of the scenes of the lazar house. These periodical recurrences of famine seem to prove that it is as necessary to organize a famine relief department in Russia as in India.

France's Invasion of Great Britain.

The "Revue des Deux Mondes" of March 15 offers an elaborate calculation of the possibilities attending an invasion of Great Britain by France in what the unknown writer assumes to be the urgent probability of an early war between these old rivals, whose friendship has ever been but a varnish of extreme tenuity. A summary is given of the many successful invasions of the island

from the days of the Roman Caesar to those of his French successor in 1803. The author asserts that a fresh attempt "would be aided by the Irish population, which might be equipped with the discarded firearms now encumbering French arsenals, of simple construction adapted to the use of inexperienced soldiers"; also that "there is reason to believe that the Irish-American party would not be dilatory in procuring blockade-runners to undertake the transportation of arms." He says, in conclusion:

Those nations which, as a consequence of the continual increase of their population, cannot subsist upon their own resources, are forced to maintain a dominant and growing commerce. They are, on that account, impelled to destroy their commercial rivals by war.

In entering upon this course, they will not fail to meet the rival able to reduce them to helplessness and ruin. Tyre, Carthage, Venice, Portugal, Holland, Spain, are all examples of this incontestable historic truth, which should suggest some wholesome reflections to the statesmen of England.

Philippine Resources and Climate.

Mr. John Barrett, late U. S. Minister to Siam, in an article written for the Review of Reviews says in relation to this head:

I believe that no section of the great continent of Asia or any other portion of the world of similar area still undeveloped offers such wide opportunities for the investment of capital in various enterprises, the construction of railroads, the improvement of agricultural conditions, the development of latent mineral deposits, including coal, iron, and gold, and the extension of legitimate commerce and trade. After traveling from one end to the other of Nippon, the principal island of Japan, and comparing what I saw of its resources and conformation of land with what I have seen of the island of Luzon, I can say that in every respect, aside from mere area and population, the comparison is in favor of Luzon.

Judging again from comparative data, after looking at what has been done by the Dutch in Java, by the British in Burmah and the Malay Peninsula, and even by the French in Indo-China, the United States should develop a foreign trade in the Philippine Islands within the next fifteen years of over \$100,000,000. As to the climate, it can be honestly said that it is no worse than that of any other tropical land, and in some respects is much more salubrious; but it must be remembered that the great features which have made the Philippines so rich and resourceful, and hence possible valuable to us, are their tropical climate and location. Otherwise they would probably be barren and useless or already developed to the same degree as Japan. From long residence in the tropics I am convinced that men can keep as well there as in temperate climates, provided only they take that care of themselves which conditions demand.

APPLAUSE BY MACHINERY.—A Vienna journal describes a curious contrivance which will render the claque in theatres superfluous, and substitute for it a machine performing the same duties. The inventor, Herr Zimmerman, has ascertained that two leather sacks filled with air, when brought violently together, make a noise precisely like that produced by the clapping of hands. He placed pairs of leather sacks in hidden places throughout a theatre, and then connected them by wires with the wings, so that they could be set in motion by electricity on a button being pressed. The *regisseur* in the wings controls the apparatus in all parts of the house, and can produce applause from the gallery, the pit, or the stalls at will. Herr Zimmermann claims that this invention is now in use in several theatres in Paris and Berlin, but for obvious reasons declines to say in which house it has been found most popular.